

**CATAWBA COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**  
**ANNEX M**  
**DAMAGE ASSESSMENT/RECOVERY**

**I. PURPOSE**

This annex presents a system to coordinate damage assessment and reporting functions, estimate the nature and extent of the damage, and provide disaster recovery assistance.

**II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

A. Situation

1. Most hazardous events which may affect the County have the potential for causing damage. A planned damage assessment program is essential for effective response and recovery operations.
2. An initial damage assessment will determine the severity and magnitude of the disaster, and identify what type supplemental assistance is necessary to recover from its effects.
3. If a disaster occurs of such magnitude that it could result in a Presidential declaration of "major disaster" or "emergency", a county-wide initial damage assessment of public and private property is required . This information will provide a basis for the determination of actions and resources needed, the establishment of priorities, the allocation of local government resources in the disaster area during the early stages of the recovery effort, and what, if any, outside assistance will be required to restore the affected area to pre-disaster condition.

B. Assumptions

1. The County will continue to be exposed to various hazards resulting in damage to both public and private property.
2. Implementing damage assessment procedures will expedite relief and assistance for those adversely affected.

**III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

A. General

Initial responsibility for damage assessment and recovery operations lies with county and municipal government.

B. Specific

1. Emergency and recovery operations will initially be coordinated from the Catawba County Emergency Operating Center or city/town emergency operations center. Accurate emergency logs and expenditure records must be kept from the onset of the disaster by each response agency/organization.
2. Damage assessment/recovery personnel will be assigned to the "Plans Section" of the Emergency Operations Center organization. The municipalities will coordinate their damage assessment with the county emergency operations center and request assistance as needed to conduct damage assessment in their jurisdictions.
3. As appropriate, the Damage Assessment Officer (DAO) will coordinate notification of damage assessment personnel. These personnel will report to the affected areas to conduct the IDA.
4. The DAO will organize, equip, and assign teams to the affected areas to conduct the initial damage assessment.

5. The DAO will coordinate the compilation of damage survey data, prepare damage assessment reports for the Emergency Management Coordinator, and plot damaged areas on local maps.
6. The Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) will review, with other appropriate local officials, the damage assessment reports to determine if any outside assistance will be necessary to recover from the disaster.
7. The emergency management coordinator will forward damage assessment reports and any requests for assistance to the N.C. Division of Emergency Management (NCEM), Area E Office by the quickest means available. The Secretary, N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety is authorized to commit any state resources to assist with the emergency/recovery efforts.
8. Based upon the local damage assessment reports, the North Carolina Emergency Management Director will determine what recovery capabilities are available to meet the anticipated requirements. If the capabilities of state/local/private resources appear to be insufficient, he may request a joint federal/state/local Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) be conducted.
9. The Governor may request a Presidential declaration of a "major disaster", "major emergency", or a specific federal agency disaster declaration (Small Business Administration, Department of Agriculture, Corps of Engineers, etc.) to augment state/local/private disaster relief efforts.
10. The President, under a "major emergency" declaration may authorize the utilization of any federal equipment, personnel and other resources.
11. The President, under a "major disaster" declaration may authorize two basic types of disaster relief assistance:

- a. Individual Assistance (IA)
    - i. temporary housing;
    - ii. individual and family grants (IFG);
    - iii. disaster unemployment assistance;
    - iv. disaster loans to individuals, businesses, and farmers;
    - v. agricultural assistance;
    - vi. legal services to low-income families and individuals;
    - vii. consumer counseling and assistance in obtaining insurance benefits;
    - viii. social security assistance;
    - ix. veteran's assistance;
    - x. casualty loss tax assistance.
  - b. Public Assistance (PA)
    - i. debris removal;
    - ii. emergency protective measures;
    - iii. permanent work to repair, restore or replace road systems, water control facilities, public buildings and equipment, public utilities, public recreational facilities, etc.
12. In the event a major disaster or emergency is declared:
- a. A Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) will be appointed by the President to coordinate the federal efforts.
  - b. A State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) will be appointed by the Governor to coordinate the state efforts.
  - c. A Disaster Field Office (DFO) will be established within the state (central to the damaged areas) from which the disaster assistance programs will be administered.

- d. For IA only, Disaster Application Centers (DACs) will be established central to the affected areas where individuals may apply for assistance.
- e. If the area is declared eligible for Public Assistance programs, an Applicant's Briefing will be conducted for officials of counties, cities, Indian tribes, and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations to explain eligibility criteria. The Emergency Management Coordinator will be requested to assist with identifying and notifying eligible applicants.
- f. At the applicant's briefing, each eligible entity will submit a Notice of Interest (NOI).
- g. Each PA applicant (including local government entities) will appoint a "Applicant's Agent" to coordinate the collection of documentation and submission of information to the DFO.

#### **IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

- A. The local officials, in conjunction with the Emergency Management Coordinator, will direct and control recovery activities from the EOC.
- B. The Damage Assessment Officer is a member of the EOC staff and is responsible for the coordination of damage assessment activities.
- C. All County departments will provide personnel and resources to support the damage assessment/recovery effort, as requested. Personnel from operating departments assigned to damage assessment responsibilities will remain under the control of their own departments, but will function under the technical supervision of the Damage Assessment Officer.

#### **V. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

- A. The line of succession is:
  - 1. Tax Administrator

2. Tax Collector
  3. Building Inspector
- B. Lines of succession for agencies supporting damage assessment are in accordance with the agency's established procedure.